

WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**** MEETING SUMMARY ****

September 16, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

John Sherman, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the July 15, 2014 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt them. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Committee Structure – Laurie Davies

Contact: 360-407-6103, Laurie.Davies@ecy.wa.gov

Laurie talked about the original committee structure. The membership list included members and designated alternates. Moving forward, the list will only consist of members. Members can ask substitutes of their choice to attend as needed. Susanne McLemore will keep the alternates that were on the old membership list on the “interested parties” email distribution so they will continue to receive meeting agendas and other information.

Holly Chisa will represent Scrap Metal Recyclers. Troy Lautenbach will represent C&D recycling. Chris Piercy will now represent WSRA.

Laurie said that John Sherman expressed interest in continuing as Chair. She asked for other nominations. There were none, and Brad Lovaas made a motion for John to continue as Chair. The motion was seconded and approved.

Regarding Vice Chair, Jan Gee made a motion for Brad Lovaas to assume the role. The motion was seconded and approved.

Susanne will revise the membership list and post it on the W2RAC website.

E-Waste Program – John Friedrich, Miles Kuntz

Contact: 360-225-622; jfriedrick@wmmfa.net; 360-407-715, Miles.Kuntz@ecy.wa.gov

Laurie Davies introduced the agenda item by saying the Committee expressed interest in how the Washington Materials Management & Financing Authority (WMMFA) is structured and how fees are determined. We also want to provide an update on E-Cycle Washington and proposed legislation to add peripheral devices to the program.

Miles Kuntz said the E-Cycle Washington Program, in operation for 5 ½ years, has proven very successful. In the first year, more than 38 million pounds of electronics were collected. The number continued to increase, and in 2013 the collection rate peaked at 45 million pounds. In

2014, the program has not collected as much because older equipment has likely made its way through the system. In six years, the program has collected a quarter billion pounds. Among states with similar programs, we have one of the highest per capita collection rates.

We need to continue educating the public about the program. We also want to expand the program to add products such as DVD players, keyboards, and printers, which will require changing the definitions in the law. This wouldn't result in changing the program structure or fees. Ecology has approved pursuing agency request legislation and we are waiting for approval from the Governor's Office to proceed. For additional details, see the Focus Sheet regarding the proposed legislation posted on the W2RAC website.

Jan Gee asked why we didn't originally include peripheral devices. Miles said he isn't sure.

Jerry Smedes observed that we're measuring the amount of units collected in pounds. With new technology, products are a lot lighter. If we were to measure the number of units collected, perhaps we would find the program hasn't actually "peaked." Miles said the number of units collected has gone up. Miles will send data on units collected to the Committee after the meeting.

Suellen Mele commented that it seems with lighter weight products, we would send a different message about the program's status if we would include information on the number of units collected. She also asked about the process for agency request legislation. She would like to see stakeholder meetings held prior to legislative session. Laurie Davies said she will ask for the agency's permission to begin the stakeholder process, and will ensure broad stakeholder involvement.

Cal Palmer asked how many functional items collected are reused. Miles said that last year charitable organizations alone put more than 40,000 units to reuse.

John Friedrich said WMMFA is moving toward a market share basis. He has tracked average product weights per year since the beginning of the program, and talked about how much product weights have dropped.

John also talked about WMMFA's structure. WMMFA was established by state law. John reports to a board of directors consisting of the largest return share manufacturers, which meets bi-monthly. The top 20 return and market share manufacturers pay for 91 percent of the program. There are ten manufacturer board members and two ex officio members from Ecology and the Department of Commerce. Manufacturer board members include representatives from Samsung, Visio, Phillips, Dell, RCA, Apple, and others.

There are 333 collection sites statewide. Agreements are negotiated separately with collectors. There are 30 or 40 transporters (not including self transporters).

Financial statements are provided to Ecology. However, individual agreements and how much collectors pay is confidential information. The collection program is designed to have competition.

Jody Snyder asked how many collectors there are. John said 333. Not each site has a separate agreement, e.g. Goodwill Industries, which has many locations. There is one agreement with Goodwill, not separate agreements for each Goodwill location.

Sego Jackson asked how many collection sites are legally required. John said about 125 to meet the requirements of the law.

Jody Snyder asked how many processors there are. John said seven.

Pat Campbell asked if collectors have dropped out of the program because they don't receive enough money or because of the process itself. John said no. No one has contacted him to say they're not paid enough. Overall only 10-15 have left the program. Sometimes negotiations on the agreements fall apart.

Pat Campbell asked if we've needed to shut anyone down because of noncompliance. Miles said a few times. Ecology is responsible for enforcement. John said shutdowns have occurred because of environmental issues, e.g. improper storage.

Jerry Smedes talked about how it's more inconvenient to get products into the system in rural areas. Is there a way to address that issue? It's a significant unmet need. John said we do have members that are solid waste facilities that act as collection sites. WMMFA has dabbled with pickup service; however, WMMFA is not required to pay for extra convenience.

Jerry Smedes said that haulers may not be part of the program for a reason. He would like WMMFA to look at the issue.

Jody Snyder asked if the seven processors are all in Washington. John said that one is in California.

John Sherman asked if there have been unexpected problems over the years. Craig Lorch talked about how most products are televisions. John Friedrich talked about issues around market vs. return share. We're moving toward 100 percent market share.

Miles Kuntz said that one issue that is surprising is education. People still don't know about the program, regardless of the broad advertising. Another issue is internet sales. Outlets located outside Washington State resist registering and complying with the law.

Troy Lautenbach asked how consumers find collection sites. Miles said information is available on the 1-800-Recycle website and by calling the 1-800-Recycle Hotline; some retailers include information on sales receipts; there are advertisements on billboards, radio, and TV; and through local governments. Sego Jackson mentioned that Republic Services and Waste Management also advertise.

Regarding next steps on the proposed legislation to add products to the E-Cycle Washington Program, Laurie Davies said she hopes to receive approval from the Governor's Office soon and will start stakeholder work. We hopefully will get bill sponsors and introduce the legislation in the 2015 Legislative Session.

Reuse & Recycling Work at DES – David Baker
Contact: 360-407-1925; David.Baker@des.wa.gov

David introduced himself as the Surplus Operations Managers for DES. He gave the Committee an overview of the purpose of State Surplus Operations, which saves state agencies and private entities a lot of money on office, field, and other supplies and equipment. See David's PowerPoint presentation posted on the W2RAC website.

State Surplus is not allowed to make a profit. It serves as a cost recovery entity, and charges only for services to cover operational costs. Very few items they receive go to the landfill. Proceeds that State Surplus receives from their online auctions go back to state agencies. State Surplus is also a drop-off point for the E-Cycle Washington Program.

State Surplus receives a lot of computers. The hard drives are wiped to Department of Defense standards. Many computers are put to reuse through a program called Computers for Kids. State Surplus also handles items from the federal Transportation Security Administration that have been confiscated. David showed the Committee an array of those items as examples.

Jan Gee commented that the service is valuable for nonprofits that can't afford items otherwise and wanted to know what nonprofits are eligible for. David said State Surplus uses eligibility criteria.

Sego Jackson asked about the product turnover rate. David said it depends on the truckloads coming in next. It's very challenging because what State Surplus receives is unpredictable and transport can vary because of weather conditions, etc. State Surplus receives about 200 pallets of products a week.

John Sherman asked if state agency use of State Surplus is obligatory or optional. David said optional. *Clarification: In general, use of State Surplus to obtain office supplies, equipment, etc. is optional, but strongly encouraged. However, individual agencies may have policies in place making it mandatory. When any state agency has an item worth \$500 or more to dispose of, the item must go to State Surplus.*

Jim Sells asked if there are days the general public can shop at State Surplus. David said yes. Refer to the Surplus Operations flyer posted on the W2RAC website for more details.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Waste Management's Behavior Study –November 2014
- Comments Received on State Plan – Janine Bogar, November 2014
- Exempt Facilities/Sham Recycling – TBD
- -350 Update - TBD
- Illegal Dumping Fines – TBD
- Update on Junk in Compost – TBD
- 1-800-Recycle Hotline Changes – TBD

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Submitted by: Susanne McLemore